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The Finnish Climate Change Panel

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCILS

SALLY WEAVER, SANNA LÖTJÖNEN AND MARKKU OLLIKAINEN

The Finnish Climate Change Panel
Report 3/2019

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INTRODUCTION

Most countries adhere to a principle of evidence-based policy making drawing on the best available knowledge of the scientific community. The more complex the issue in policy focus is, the more important is its deep understanding. Climate change belongs to what are often called wicked problems, indicating that climate change mitigation is multidimensional and difficult to solve because of multiple obstacles and society-wide implications. Many countries promote their climate policy by having a climate act as the backbone of policy and this is quite often accompanied by an independent special body, national climate change advisory council, committee or panel. The task of this type of body is to provide science-based policy advice within the mandates the climate acts define.

There are currently roughly a dozen expert advisory councils across all continents and their number is increasing. While in most countries these advisory councils consist of scientists, in other countries also stakeholders or officials hold council positions. In some countries sustainable development or environmental councils have been required to provide climate policy advice as part of their other duties. However, the core elements of independence, expertise and often science-based recommendation are similar in most cases. Advisory councils are established to provide policy makers and authorities with the most relevant independent expert advice when planning policies, or to bring together relevant actors to discuss policy direction and its social acceptability.

National climate change advisory councils are formed and operate in different ways around the world. They are sharing their experiences, for instance by having joined international workshops as councils face similar challenges in their work. Topics all councils encounter and have shared information on cover among others what are the best and cost-efficient measures for mitigation, how to solve the challenges in agriculture and transport, pricing carbon for instance in emissions trading markets, the role of sinks (forestry and others) and adaption plans. Another set of issues relevant for all councils is related to their adapted working practices: producing reports, having consultations with policy makers and the general public as well as media. Each council can learn from the best practices of other councils and the ways they work within the boundaries of national legislation and institutions.

There is much interest in the work of climate change advisory councils not only among various stakeholders in countries where councils work but also by those countries without such an advisory body. The purpose of this overview is to bring together information on climate change councils. Given that some sustainable development and environmental councils do similar work, they are also included in the account to provide a broader view. The aim is to provide information on the way in which national climate councils operate, their backgrounds and mandates. Also, this report serves as a reference for climate change advisory councils, including their composition, mandate and working practices, for anyone looking to learn more.

The key aspects we want to highlight in this overview are the following. What kind of similarities and differences do councils exhibit in terms of their composition, legislative mandate and closeness to national policy making? What are the interesting practices discovered in different chosen councils, which may be useful for other councils to adapt? What sort of role and organization is given to adaption? This account demonstrates the variety of mandates and tasks that climate councils can have. At the end of this overview, we provide a list of climate councils with some additional information, alongside mentions of councils focused on sustainable development or the environment to round up the overview with information on different organisational structures and backgrounds.

The information for this report has been compiled by interviewing council members and staff, examining relevant national climate or environmental legislation and using available information on council websites and publications. The first findings have been reported in the climate councils' international workshop in London in February 2018 organised by the United Kingdom Committee on Climate Change and the Finnish Climate Change Panel. Several councils have been established in the past few years, so some may have inadvertently been overlooked when compiling this report. Also, the nature of national councils is that their work is communicated in the local language, so some descriptions of councils may be incomplete due to the lack of information available in English or outdated contact details. We apologise if there is a council we have by mistake omitted or if we have misunderstood information provided, and we are grateful to all those who were helpful in providing information and were able to spare their time for interviews.

OVERVIEW

The map below (Fig. 1) shows the geographic coverage of councils concerning climate change alongside the year of establishment of each council. We found councils exist in both developed and developing countries and across all habited continents. The different colours represent the nature of the council: climate change, environment or sustainable development, as there are several alternatives for advisory councils to provide climate advice. Northern Europe has several councils including the archetype of climate councils, the UK Committee on Climate Change (UK CCC). All of the Nordic councils are scientific by nature and presented in more detail in the next chapter alongside the UK and Irish councils which have similar independent expert statuses. Central and southern Europe tend to have either an environmental or a climate council for addressing climate issues. The German environmental council is the oldest council we discovered while Austria has had two different types of climate councils. The German council produces scientific reports for the use of both the public and politicians as reliable source of information on the environment and climate change. The Austrian council is a stakeholder forum for exchanging opinions on climate policy and to pass these opinions on to the government. The Flemish Council of the Environment works a great deal on climate and energy issues as do the Portuguese and Spanish Environmental Councils. They all have working groups focusing on climate and energy issues.

Outside of Europe there are several other councils too, though slightly different in mandate and composition. For example, Cambodia had a council on climate change, which was transformed into a sustainable development council. The Indian National Committee on Climate Change is not an independent body, and its year of establishment is unclear – its tasks are similar though to independent bodies as the Committee advices on climate policy. Mexico has an independent advisory council as part of its climate governance system and Canada is about to establish a national partnerships-based scientific expert organisation for providing climate policy advice.

As we can see from the map, the 1990s brought about several environmental advisory councils, while climate councils' number grew significantly around 2015, presumably in expectation of the Paris Agreement and a more acceptable political atmosphere. Additional information on all councils shown on the map is available in the Appendix of this report, which contains descriptions of all discovered councils.

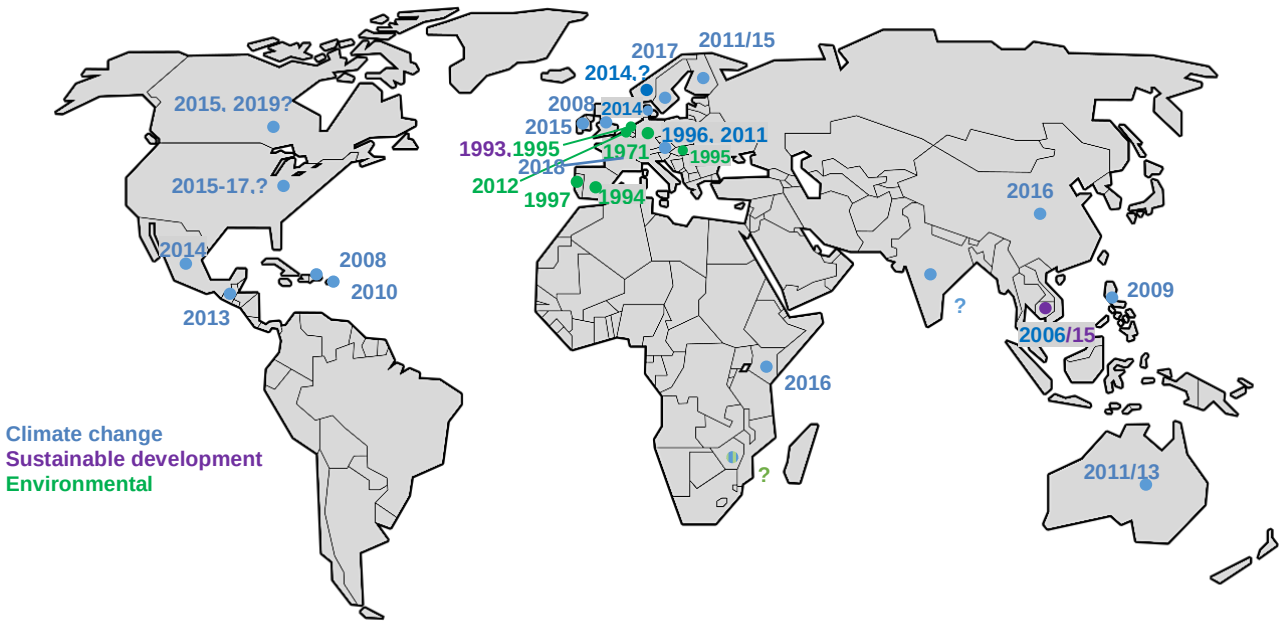


Figure 1. Advisory councils around the world

The composition of councils around the world ranges from consisting solely of academics to a mix of academics, authorities and representatives from society, such as NGOs, interest groups or businesses. Based on discussions during interviews, the councils with academic representation felt they had most independence. This may be due to less pressure from their respective institutions to focus on certain issues than for other members. In addition, the evidence-based approach for advice of all councils is closely aligned with the realities of scientific research. In general, all council members, no matter what their affiliation, feel free from restrictions to work on council matters according to their best judgement. The high level of motivation may be due to the voluntary nature of working on most councils, as ex-officio members are not that common in councils focusing purely on climate change. However, the voluntary basis of councillors' work can lead to less effective participation in some cases.[1] The most common limitation to council work is by far time available, with resources for supporting tasks, such as communications or stakeholder engagement, as the second. The focus on mitigation over adaptation is also something often mentioned, even though councils would like to treat adaptation with equal emphasis to mitigation.

Broadly speaking, councils can be categorised by their composition. The councils established by legislation tend to be either scientific and independent (such as i.e. the Nordic councils), or governmental and executive (such as i.e. in Kenya and Cambodia). On top of these two types, there are several examples of NGO, stakeholder or civil society councils and all sorts of hybrids and combinations between the three. The picture below (Fig. 2) shows a rough divide on this spectrum.

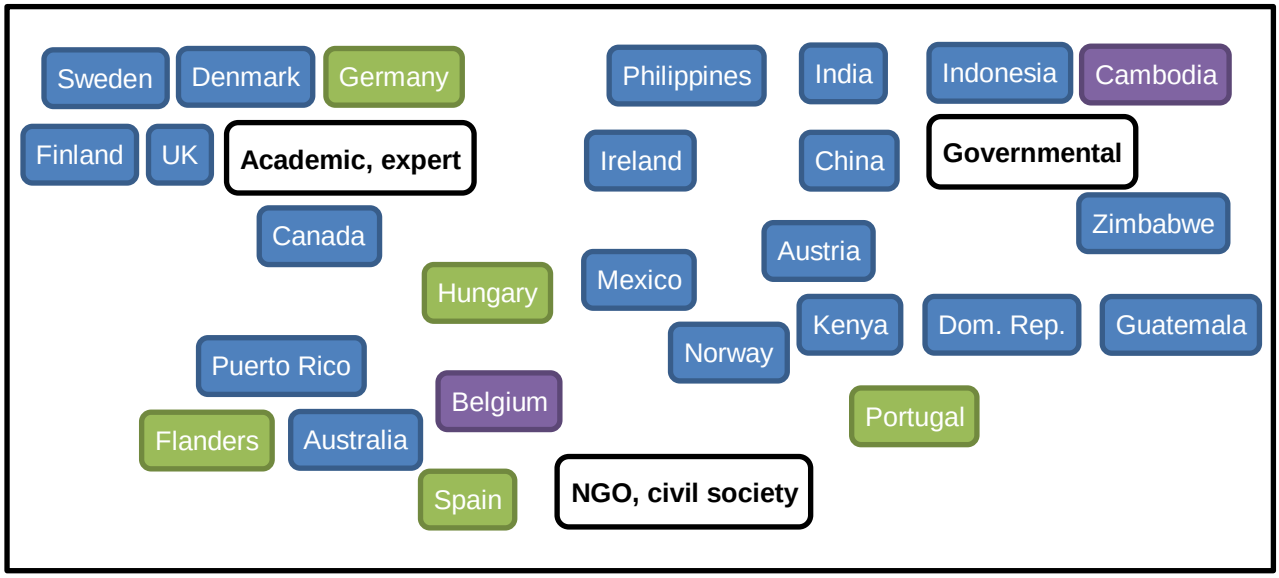


Figure 2. Composition of councils by councillors' backgrounds. Blue for climate change, purple for SD and green for environmental councils.

Some generalisations can be drawn between the composition of councils and their key features. The academic and expert councils are the most independent, the governmental ones the least. The councils with mostly civil society members would seem to have the least actual policy influence, while the governmental ones naturally have the most. What is similar between civil society and governmental councils is the role of the council as a discussion forum, rather than a strictly separate, advising capacity that academic councils have.

In addition to background, councils differ in their number of councillors and how the council is run. The size of the councils ranged from three (Cambodia) to 157 (Puerto Rico) council members in the set of councils presented in this report (Fig. 3). The number of councillors describe the type of council relatively well: the smallest councils tend to be more formal and executive by nature with the task of supervising rather than advising, while the largest ones work as forums for discussion between stakeholders rather than advising

[1] See also: Averchenkova, A. and Luna, S.L.G., 2018. Mexico's General Law on Climate Change: Key achievements and challenges ahead.

government. Councils of approximately six to 20 members tend to be the ones who work most as advisors and produce their own reports or research as well.

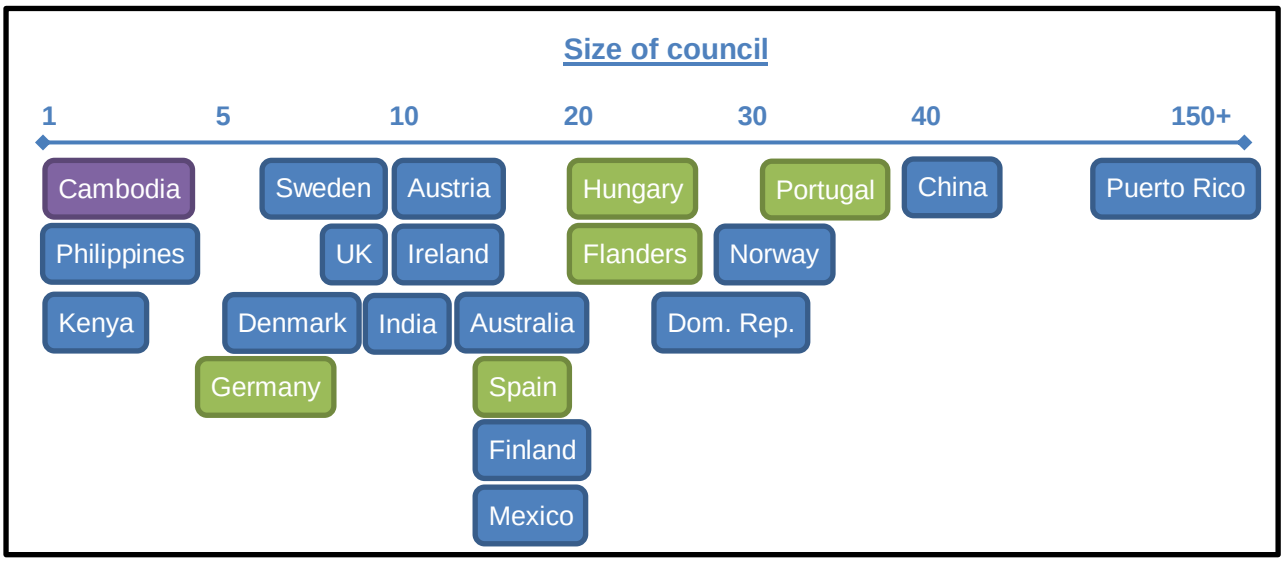


Figure 3. Size of councils. Blue for climate change, purple for SD and green for environmental councils.

Councils with less than 10 members sometimes struggle with getting everyone together, as decisions can only be made when enough members are present. On the other hand, smaller councils are able to reach consensus and organise the work easier. It is also worth mentioning a point, which arose during several interviews: when the council is smaller, there is positive pressure for everyone to put in equal effort to council work as everyone works closely together. This leads to a feeling of equality and of not being over-worked, which is important as many councillors work on council matters solely in their free time. On the other hand, councils of over 10 members have the crucial benefit of representing more scientific fields or sectors of society than the smaller ones. As discussed previously, the interdisciplinarity and multilateral nature is always key in the functioning of councils due to the multidimensional nature of climate change and the mandate behind the work of the councils.

The size and tasks of the secretariats of councils vary as much as the councils themselves do (Fig. 4). Some councils do not have a formal secretariat, but instead rely on civil servants from a designated ministry or institution for the support they need or fund tasks on a case-by-case basis. The size of the secretariat ranges from zero to 30 in the councils examined for this report. Their expertise is usually in administration, finance, communications and public policy in additions to scientific backgrounds of some of the secretariat. Typically, in the case of larger secretariats, their main tasks are to research and write the councils' reports while the councillors initiate, oversee and participate in the work when necessary or time allows. In the case of smaller secretariats, publication is less frequent, and more is required from the councillors. With the scarcest resources, the secretariat only has administrative tasks. In the case of the largest secretariat, they can also receive commissions for other work. Some councils have next to no staff, so they utilise either existing research or commission work from others.

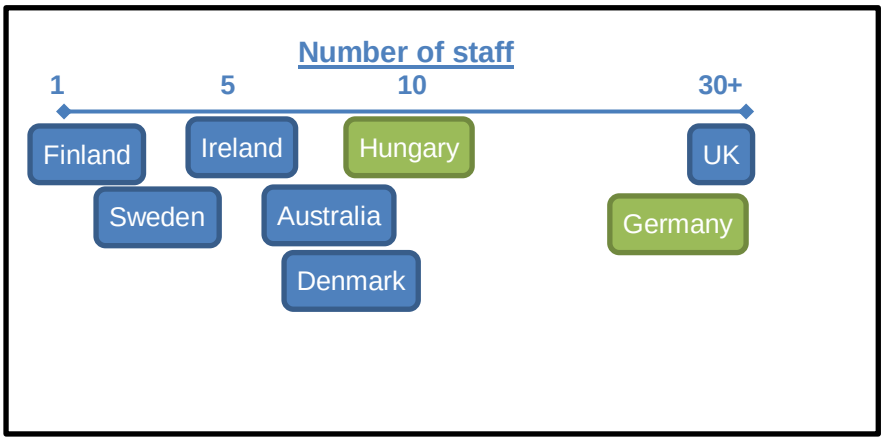


Figure 4. Size of secretariats. Blue for climate change and green for environmental councils.

The secretariats are also organised in different ways. Only in a few cases interviewed was the secretariat separate from some other organisation. Most commonly the secretariat has shared infrastructure with a public entity, such as a ministry or a research institute. When it is clear to both the partner organisation and to the council that the secretariat is independent, despite shared i.e. HR or accounting services, the benefits of not having to set up own organisational necessities for the council can be realised to the full. This kind of organisation seems to work well for the councils and their secretariats, but to the public it may seem confusing and less independent.

The funding of the councils depends markedly on the statutory duties of the council, e.g. on how much original research or preparatory work is to be produced. Comparing funding between councils is not as straightforward a task as we initially thought – depending on the council, many services are outside of the council budget in kind. Council facilities may be provided by another entity and costs not appear in the council budget. Also, staff payroll may be allocated to another entity, who may also provide administrative services. Councillors aren't always monetarily compensated through the council budget for their work, instead they may work on council matters on a voluntary basis or in some cases have allocated hours part of their jobs. Therefore, the size of the secretariat and number of councillors combined, rather than a council's budget, is a reasonable indicator of the extent and proportion of the council and its capabilities.

With varying capabilities across councils, policy influence differs too. However, actual policy influence is hard to estimate. A study has been made on the UK CCC on how often its work is cited in the UK parliamentary discussion[2], which is the only empiric study we discovered on the influence of a climate council. The strength of the mandate of each council can be evaluated, but more often than not the wording of the framework documents or climate legislation is similar: the council is to provide advice, but there is no enforcement on whether this advice is taken into account by the government. Therefore, this leaves most councils to work within the limits of the existing political atmosphere and depending on the receptiveness of stakeholders.

[2] Averchenkova A, Fankhauser S, and Finnegan J (2018) The role of independent bodies in climate governance: the UK's Committee on Climate Change. London: Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science.

A closer look at scientific climate councils

As there are many variations on councils around the world, it is worth looking at a few of the different types more closely. Also, in the relatively short history of climate councils there have been some failures alongside the success stories. We start with looking at the scientific councils and then move on to discuss the oldest and newest councils as well as those which have been shut down.

The purely climate policy orientated independent expert councils which are well established into the national structures can be found in the UK, Denmark, Ireland, Finland and Sweden. Their mandates and years of establishment are presented in short in the Table 1 below.

Table 1. Scientific climate change advisory councils in short.

Name	Mandate	Established in [3]
The UK Committee on Climate Change	To advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. Especially to provide independent advice on setting and meeting carbon budgets and preparing for climate change and monitoring progress in reducing emissions and achieving carbon budgets and targets	In 2008 by the UK Climate Change Act
The Climate Change Council of Denmark - Klimarådet	To evaluate the status of national climate objective implementation and international climate commitments; to analyse potential means of transitioning to a low-carbon society by 2050 and identify possible measures to achieve greenhouse gas reductions; to draw up recommendations to help shape climate policy, including a selection of potential mechanisms and transition scenarios; to contribute to the public debate.	In 2014 by the Danish Climate Act
The Climate Change Council of Ireland	To assess and advise on how Ireland is making the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. The Council works to provide contributions in critiquing, informing and shaping Ireland's response to climate change.	In the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act of 2015
The Finnish Climate Change Panel – Suomen ilmastopaneeli	A scientific and independent expert body to support climate policy planning and decision-making. The Panel is responsible for compiling and identifying scientific information on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the planning and monitoring of climate policy. The Panel may also perform other tasks related to the production of a knowledge base on climate change.	Officially in 2016 by the Finnish Climate Change Act of 2015, preceded by a council of the same name for two terms (2011-2013 and 2013-2015).
The Swedish Climate Policy Council - Klimatpolitiska rådet	To assess if the overall policy of the Government is compatible with the climate goals by evaluating if the present policy in different policy areas contributes or counteracts the climate goals, reviewing the effects of both existing and planned policies from a broad societal perspective, and identifying policy areas where additional measures need to be taken if the climate goals are to be achieved.	Not included in the Climate Act of 2017, instead established in the Swedish climate policy framework as a way to implement the Act.

These scientific councils consist mainly of top academics or otherwise distinguished experts in the field of climate change. Scientific councils produce concrete policy recommendations, e.g. on regulating solid

[3] Climate Change Laws of the World database, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Available at: http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/legislation/.

biomass for energy purposes (Denmark), on the type of heating systems required in new homes (UK) or setting a floor price on carbon (Ireland).

While most councils have had a good start and adjusted along the way to best suit national circumstances, not all councils have been success stories. The United States Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment ceased to exist in 2017 when their charter expired without renewal due to the political atmosphere at the time. No similar body on a federal level has been established since, though there have been considerations to include such advisory element as a climate policy council to the Earth institute at Columbia University.

The case of Australia provides more promise for the future despite setbacks. The Australian Climate Commission, which was an independent expert council, got shut down in 2012 after just one term. The reason for this was the political atmosphere of the time: the Liberal-National Coalition government dismantled many of the forward-looking climate policies that the previous Labour government had put in place.[4] However, immediately after the abolition of the Commission, its members restructured into the Australian Climate Council in 2013, which is funded purely through donations and works towards providing expert advice to the public on climate change and solutions based on science. Interestingly, the Council is the largest ever crowd-funded case in Australia and the Council also works with a team of volunteers.

Returning to North America, Canada has just recently formed an advisory council in a unique way. The government set out a call for bids for an advisory council with the working title of the Climate Institute. Its tasks are to produce and communicate information, policy advice, and best practices for Canada to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Funding of up to 20 million Canadian dollars will be provided for five years and the bid was won by the Pan-Canadian Expert Collaboration.[5] In addition to Canada, we have come to understand that climate councils for the Netherlands and Norway are also in the pipeline, but to date we don't have any practical information on what kind of councils they will be.

[4] Rootes, C., 2014. A referendum on the carbon tax? The 2013 Australian election, the Greens, and the environment. Environmental Politics, 23(1), pp.166-173.; McDonald, M., 2013. The future of Australian climate politics. Australian Journal of Politics & History, 59(3), pp.449-456.

[5] https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-winning-bid-to-create-new-independent-climate-institute-892133651.html

PRACTICES IN FOCUS

The main tasks of most councils are to produce relevant reports, have consultations with policy makers and the general public as well as the media and to ensure the council's independence. In this section we present some interesting practices councils have developed to fulfil these tasks. We present the following ideas for further discussion, and to give an idea of how there are different ways of organising the work of a climate change council. As all councils differ, these practices may not be suitable for each and every one. The idea is to provide food for thought on how to organise work in creative and alternative ways for the benefit of the council, its stakeholders and taking into account national context.

Since all councils consist of experts on climate science or policy, they have specialised knowledge required for providing advice and evaluations. However, as climate change is a complex issue and related scientific fields numerous, the council itself may not always have the most current knowledge. Learning from your community and stakeholders is commonplace in each councillor's individual case, but a systemised method for channelling it to the council's pool of knowledge is important – otherwise the advice provided may not include all relevant perspectives or be outdated. Therefore, a way to consult experts outside the council is a key point to consider in the work of a council.

Perspectives from stakeholders

The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) publishes 'Calls for Evidence' to gain information on a topic under consideration in the preparatory stage of writing a report. This consultation process is used to gather new information and to make sure all relevant perspectives are understood, from for instance business, industry and NGOs. Calls for Evidence are not carried out for every report, instead they are used when a report potentially involves a wide range of views and stakeholders, e.g. national carbon budgets or evaluating bioenergy potential.

The process is considered useful, since the CCC can consult many groups at the same time in an efficient manner. The number of responses received by the CCC through this process depends on the particular call for evidence, but the maximum has been up to 200 responses. The call may contain dozens of questions from technical to opinions, of which respondents decide on how many to answer. All submissions are published on their website and the current guideline is to answer only those questions where the respondents have particular expertise and can provide links to supporting evidence. The guidelines encourage responses that are brief and to the point (i.e. a maximum of 400 words per question, plus links to supporting evidence). Submitted responses may be followed up if necessary.

Sourcing information in this way in practice requires effort as all responses need to be examined. Key messages and findings are compiled and presented to the CCC by the secretariat. The resulting information can then be factored in to a report or presented for further consideration. The call may also generate leads for further research and introduce the CCC to new networks or groups who would be useful to engage in future processes too. A recent example of the Call for Evidence process is the bioenergy review, for which over 30 responses from private individuals to businesses and NGOs were received.[6]

The Danish Council on Climate Change has organised its stakeholder engagement in a different way by forming a stakeholder group consisting of representatives of relevant interest groups.[7] This group is a forum for input, reflection and communication on climate policy issues in Denmark, but not a steering group in any way. The Danish Council has found it useful to arrange workshops on various topics, such as how Denmark should fulfil its non-ETS reduction commitment of 39% or what should be the key elements of a new Danish energy bill with regards to reaching the renewable energy target by 2030.

[6] CCC Bioenergy Call for Evidence: Summary of evidence submitted, final report. Report for Committee on Climate Change, JH/0218. Available: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/bioenergy-call-for-evidence-report/

[7] Such as Confederation of Danish Industries, Danish Energy, Danish Construction Association, Green Peace, The Danish Forest Association, WWF, Danish Agriculture and Food, Danish Wind Association, Oil and Gas Denmark etc

This stakeholder group serves a similar purpose as the UK practice of Calls for Evidence, as the goal is to gain insight. But, the Danish solution has a different tone as it brings various actors together for discussion rather than consultation. This type of semi-formal stakeholder group also provides an efficient way of communicating Council matters to society overall through the stakeholder group and their respective networks. It can be beneficial to bring opposing opinions together in a relevant context to discuss the key issues behind discontent, or to provide insight and understanding on how other actors in society consider climate policy matters.

Consulting the scientific community

The Finnish Climate Change Panel consists of top academics in their respective fields and all councillors are affiliated with a university or research institute. The emphasis of the Panel is to provide scientific information and advice, so drawing on the most current knowledge and skills in the scientific community is essential. As the Panel only has a small secretariat currently tasked with mainly administrative and support tasks, the responsibility of keeping up to date is on the councillors. However, producing reports requires time to spare which top academics may not always have in abundance.

To combine the two issues of required knowledge and lack of time, the Panel collaborates with outside researchers to produce scientific reports. In practice, the Panel decides on a research topic and discusses who in the scientific community has the best skillset and time to assist in the research. These researchers may often be from the home organisations of the panellists. The Panel then applies for funding jointly with the outside researcher from the Ministry of the Environment, who controls the budget for the Panel. The Panel names a panellist responsible for the project, who then works together with the outside researchers to produce the report.

This is not the most typical way of organising work, as more often than not councils have secretariats who partake in the scientific community and do the research and writing. When secretariats do this work, a council can be seen to be more independent as everything is done in-house. But in the case of Finland, research institutes have good reputations and are seen as independent and unbiased. Recently, to highlight the scientific basis and the Panel's mandate in these collaboration projects, a shorter text is published alongside the actual scientific report. This text is a short summary presenting the highlights and the Panel's policy interpretations of the report's results, so in practice a summary of take-away messages for policymakers. This also leaves room for the research report to be objective and unaffiliated with policy influencing, as the writers are not Panel members.

Drawing on knowledge from government agencies

The Climate Change Advisory Council of Ireland consists of a chair and 10 councillors, of which four are ex-officio members. These ex-officio members are leads of head research institutes or governmental organisations.[8] As an independent advisory council, it may seem counterintuitive to have ex-officio members. A decision was made in the formation of the Irish Council to contain ex-officio members previous to the formal decisions on the Council's independence.[9] However, the finalised Irish Climate Act of 2015 states the Council must have a chair and eight to ten councillors and thus the ex-officio members cannot form a majority.

The benefit of the ex-officio members is that the council can draw on the vast knowledge of the backing organisations, in addition to their research, networks and possible insider knowledge. As the role of the advisory council is to make recommendations to the government, it can be useful to have insight from non-academic institutions. However, organising for information from governmental organisations can be organised in many ways. The Finnish Climate Change Panel has liaison officers from relevant ministries, who attend Panel meetings but are not present when issues are decided on. But, for the Irish Council, having ex-

[8] The Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency; the Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; the Director of Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority; and the Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute

[9] Torney, D., 2017. If at first you don't succeed: the development of climate change legislation in Ireland. Irish Political Studies, 32(2), pp.247-267.

officio members has worked well and there have been few to none incidents of conflicting interests or compromised independence. In practice, the ex-officio and other Council members have been able to fulfil and further their tasks in a consensus-minded way according to interviews, as council members feel clear on 'which hat to wear'.

There are several options for relevant organisations from civil society to officials when thinking about structuring a council with some ex-officio members. To be able to work independently and transparently, it seems clear that ex-officio members need to be a minority and understand the council's mandate fully to avoid conflicting interests and maintain integrity. However, in some cases this means losing on ability to influence policy directly. For example, the National Climate Change Council of Kenya is a council tasked with policy making, consisting of cabinet secretaries but also representatives of society.[10] Therefore they have high influence, but low independence. Alternatively, having a formal nomination process for a contact person in a relevant governmental or non-governmental organisation who would regularly meet with the council would promote deeper cooperation between independent advisory bodies and their target audience of policy makers. There are many variations on this across the world, which can be seen from the list of advisory councils and their working practices in the appendix of this report.

Efficiency within

Organising work between the council and councillors' home organisations, as well as cooperation with the secretariat, depend on the working practices and organisational design developed for each council. Typically climate councils have a separate secretariat to deal with most of the administrative and research work, with the climate council itself providing expert knowledge and participating in dialogue with policy makers and stakeholders.

In the case of the German Council of the Environment SRU, they have a secretariat split into two: part of the secretariat is housed in the SRU building, and the other part in the home organisations of the councillors. All seven members of the council, who are all professors, have an assistant at their home organisation working 50% of their time on council matters funded by the SRU. The assistants' tasks are to liaise between the rest of the secretariat and the councillor, conduct research and administrative work for the council, and in general, share the work load of the councillor and assist in council work. Typically, the assistant would be a doctoral student for the other 50% of their time.

This practice has worked well in Germany, since a communication between the secretariat and councillors was previously a bottle neck issue, in a country with much bureaucracy and a council with a wide set of topics to cover. Having an assistant eliminates the problems with efficient and timely communication to councillors, as the assistant is there to keep the council member up to speed and follow up necessary communications. It also keeps some of the research and reporting work of the secretariat close to the council member themselves, so they can provide input flexibly if necessary. Being based at a university or research institute provides strength in the scientific basis of the council's work too.

The German SRU, the Danish Council and the UK CCC are independent organisations with their own facilities, but in general councils and their secretariats are housed within a research institute or government agency. For example, the Irish Council's secretariat is based in the Environmental Protection Agency's building and the Swedish Council at the Formas research institute. The benefit of having a council with a completely separate organisation is naturally the independence it brings. However, such as in the Irish and Swedish cases, being linked with another organisation brings the benefits of not having to set up own institutional practices such as IT support, HR or financial administration. Depending on the tasks, funding and national circumstances both of these options are viable – as long as the independence and affiliations of the council itself are clear.

[10] A representative of the private sector nominated by the body representing the largest number of institutions in the private sector; a representative of the Civil Society nominated by the most representative registered national umbrella association of civil societies working on climate change; a representative of the marginalised community who has knowledge and experience in matters relating to indigenous knowledge; and a representative of the academia nominated by the Commission for University Education.

All these cases presented have an underlying motive of efficient use of time. Councillors often work on council matters on top of their regular jobs and secretariats have access to limited resources. Therefore, ways to engage stakeholders, policy makers, the scientific community and the general public in a relevant way provides for more resources to use for the quality of the core work of the council.

CONCLUSIONS

The set of climate councils compiled in this report is not complete, as new council are continuously emerging. However, several conclusions can be drawn from the ones examined so far. Advisory councils on climate change can provide the necessary continuity and consistency over time, which is needed for truly effective and sound climate policy. The key to success for councils is to have statutory duties or a formal mandate, and that the council is seen both by the government and to the public eye as an objective source of information on climate change and policy. Thus the council can provide advice on climate policy that reaches over a time longer than a single term of government, and climate targets set are seen as credible.

If a country has climate legislation, it also most likely has some sort of mechanism for receiving advice and input. However, while many countries increasingly have climate legislation, they do not all have an independent advisory council. If there is a council, legislation will typically state that the council has the duty to advise the government on short to long-term strategies and plans. This shows that several nations have come to the same conclusion when examining the integration of climate change issues into their structures: since climate change has overarching effects on all economic activities, the importance of drawing on a diverse scientific basis in an interdisciplinary manner is emphasized more than with environmental issues previously. The demand for evidence-based policy making makes a good case for consulting an independent body of experts.

The original climate advisory council upon which many emerging councils looks for good practices is the UK Committee on Climate Change. The Swedish, Danish, Irish, Finnish and upcoming Canadian councils can be seen to broadly have a similar ideal in scientific and policy relevant advice, but with a varied institutional set-ups and actual influence. The oldest independent and scientific advisory council discovered was the German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU) established in 1971, who work on climate change in addition to environmental matters. The newest one on the other hand would seem to be the upcoming Canadian Climate institute,

A recent paper[11] showed that the UK parliament - both government and opposition - referenced the work and advice of the CCC on carbon budgets, debates on flooding and in preparation of the Energy Bill. In Finland, the Panel has been a trusted source for the government for example in facilitating cross-party work in committing to 1.5 C compatible climate policy or providing science-based evaluations on gaps in knowledge. For some other councils, the national political atmosphere has taken its toll. From the cases of abolished councils in Australia and the US to disputes in nominating councillors in Kenya, there can be many reasons and results from differing national circumstances. It will remain to see how councils in the future evolve, and whether stronger legal mandates will emerge to safeguard the long-term perspective provided by advisory councils on climate change.

[11] Averchenkova A, Fankhauser S, and Finnegan J (2018) The role of independent bodies in climate governance: the UK's Committee on Climate Change. London: Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science.

APPENDIX. COUNCILS AROUND THE WORLD

In this section we provide information on advisory councils discovered during this project. As the working languages of most councils are their respective official languages, we have not been able to account for all of them fully and may have overlooked others unintentionally. Some direct quotes from either national legislation or the websites cited appear in these description, e.g. when describing a council's mandate. We start with scientific climate and environmental advisory councils and then move on to other types of councils. If you have information relevant to this section describing national councils, please contact the authors of this report.

The Danish Council on Climate Change – Klimarådet

https://www.klimaraadet.dk/en

Background

The Danish Council on Climate Change provides recommendations on climate initiatives in the transition to a low-carbon society based on independent professional analyses centred on the overall objective for 2050. They investigate what the best solutions are for Denmark in the short, medium and long term in relation to Denmark's security of supply, competitiveness and opportunities for continued growth and development for the benefit of citizens' welfare.

The Danish Council on Climate Change was established as a result of the Climate Change Act, which outlined the Council's tasks. In this Climate Change Act it is stated that the Danish Council on Climate Change must

- evaluate the status of Denmark's implementation of national climate objectives and international climate commitments,
- analyse potential means of transitioning to a low-carbon society by 2050 and identify possible measures to achieve greenhouse gas reductions,
- draw up recommendations to help shape climate policy, including a selection of potential mechanisms and transition scenarios, and
- contribute to the public debate.

The Danish Council on Climate Change must, to the extent required in the preparation of its analyses and other work, consult and involve relevant parties, including, among other business interests, social partners in the labour market and civil society. Its work is based on back-casting from 2050 targets when advising the government on short, medium and long-term policy.

Structure

The Council is an independent body of experts, consisting of a chairman and six other members. It is composed of experts with broad expertise and a high climate-relevant professional level in energy, buildings, transport, agriculture, environment or nature and economics, including broad socio-economic and business economics expertise. The chairman is appointed by the Minister for Climate, Energy and Building, and the other members are appointed by the same Minister, after consultation with other relevant ministries. The members of the Council are appointed for a period of four years, with the possibility of a reappointment once.

The Climate Council may involve external expertise in its work, including establishing expert-based ad hoc committees when the council does not possess the necessary expertise, as well as ordering external analyses. The Council aims to listen to and involve relevant parties. They have a stakeholder group with representatives from relevant interest groups, including industry associations, companies, NGOs, municipalities and regions.

The council and the secretariat have approximately six to eight meetings per year, of which one is a two-day workshop. The council has a working chairman who is at the secretariat approximately twice a week to offer guidance on the work conducted by the secretariat.

Secretariat

The Council is assisted by a secretariat consisting of a secretary director and seven employees with specialist expertise relating to the Council's areas of operations. The secretariat is headed by a secretary director appointed by the Minister for Climate, Energy and Building, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the

Climate Council. The secretariat works full time on council matters and are permanent staff of the Council. Their background is mainly in economic and political sciences.

The secretariat prepares the council meetings and run the day-to-day operations, communications and research. The secretariat also attends various stakeholder meetings and conferences and arrange workshops for the Danish Climate Councils stakeholder network. The secretariat does most of the actual analysis, report writing and planning - based on the council's expert inputs and guidance. Eight of the secretariat staff work full time and the two student assistants work part time. The size of the secretariat is deemed suitable for their current tasks.

Publications
At least once a year, the Council submits and publishes recommendations to the Climate, Energy and Building Minister, so that climate action can be organised cost-effectively and taking into account growth, competitiveness, employment and recommendations from science. Advice is given on the best solutions for Denmark in the short, medium and long term. The council is free to decide on the more specific sectors or topics it wants to examine. The government on the other hand is obliged to respond once a year to the recommendations made by the council.

Funding
The council is funded by public means through the national finance bill. The yearly funding is approximately 9 million DKK a year (around €1.2 million). Council members are compensated based on the number of hours they spend on their council obligations. There are approximately six council meetings a year of six hours duration and for each meeting there is an expected amount of preparation time of approximately eight hours. Each council member is compensated for the expected number of hours spent on council meetings and preparation. Most of the council members use their spare time to prepare for council meetings and to make written comments. For the council meetings they take half a day off from their regular jobs to participate. The balance between their regular jobs and council obligations and the amount of work hours they are compensated in general appear to suit council members.

Interaction
The Climate Act states that the Council is to engage in public debate. The Council must, to the extent required in the preparation of its analyses and other work, consult and involve relevant parties, including, among other business interests, social partners in the labour market and civil society.

The Council wishes to have a close interaction with the international community, and so currently an essential part of the Council's work is to discuss with stakeholders in climate change around the world. Not only to stay up to date on the latest factual knowledge about development in for example technology and climate analysis, but also to hear stakeholder opinions and proposals on how to progress towards a low-carbon society.

The primary objective of the council is to make relevant policy recommendations, but it is also the goal of the council to be visible and relevant in the public debate. That is also why the council have established a stakeholder network. The network is always invited to the council's presentations and press conferences. The chairman of the council participates in many public conferences and debates and often appears in the news.

Some council members have more public profiles than others do but they are all acknowledged professors, who participate in the public debate and are engaged in scientific research projects and education of other scholars. Some of them are often invited to offer their expert opinion at public conferences and debates or in the media.

The council seeks to be relevant and trustworthy in the public debate. The primary means of communicating the council's findings from its reports and analysis are through the means of press conferences, workshops with stakeholders, submitting comments and opinion and other contributions to the newspaper debate, and engaging on Twitter and LinkedIn.

The objective of the council is to make relevant policy recommendations and the council has also been successful in getting some of its recommendations adopted by the parliament. There has been a successful working relationship with government officials in providing strong policy recommendations and remaining neutral and independent. The council make recommendations based on what they believe are the best policy

options no matter if they happen to correlate with the government's policies or not, or if they correlate with the interest of public or private stakeholders.

The Finnish Climate Change Panel - Suomen ilmastopaneeli

www.ilmastopaneeli.fi/en/

Background

The Finnish Climate Change Panel promotes discussion between academia and policy-makers in climate change issues. It gives recommendations to the government on climate policy and strengthens the multidisciplinary approach of climate change science. The Panel also serves as an advisor to the Finnish ministerial working group on energy and climate policy. The Panel is tasked with assessing the coherence of climate policy and the sufficiency of the implemented measures to answer the challenges of climate change. The Panel can receive assignments from different ministries and ministerial working groups to provide background information required for developing climate policies.

The Panel was established in 2012, to advise in the process of forming a climate change strategy for Finland. The Climate Change Act of 2015 then gave mandate for the Panel to conduct its formal duties, to be a scientific and independent expert body for supporting the planning of climate change policy and related decision-making.

Structure

The Panel consists of 15 members representing scientific fields currently ranging from economics and law to environmental education and soil science. A call for members is sent to universities and research institutes, who then present their nominee for Panel membership. The members are nominated by these organisations on the basis of skill and merit alongside a required good knowledge of decisions-making structures relevant for climate policy design and implementation. Panel members must have a doctorate in a relevant field and competence in putting scientific knowledge into practice. Other required qualities are the readiness to take part in public discussion and activeness in the scientific community.

The panel is then appointed by The Council of State based on a recommendation of the Ministry of the Environment on the composition of the Panel. Council members are not compensated for their work on the Panel. The annual funding of the Panel is 300 000 € of which travel costs, press events, compensation and project workers' salaries are paid.

Representatives from relevant ministries, who are nominated from their respective ministries as liaison officers, may be present in the Panel's meetings. Thus the Panel is up to date on governmental processes and the ministries on current scientific discussion. These ministry representatives present current information on governmental processes and plans to the Panel, but also listen to Panel matters and take them back to their home organisations. The relevant ministries currently considered are ministries of the Environment; Agriculture and Forestry; Economic Affairs and Employment; and Transport and Communications.

The work of the panel is closely linked to all member's home organisations, where the actual work and research is done. All current panel members are connected to either a university or a research institute.

Secretariat

The Panel has a secretariat of two members: one who is a science secretary and other a ministry representative. They are in charge of administrative tasks of the Panel, such as meeting minutes and financial reporting. Most communications tasks are outsourced to a media agency for effective publication and media engagement. Producing reports and conducting research can also be outsourced to non-Panel researchers.

Publications

The Panel publishes formal statements on climate change policy drafts or plans, as mandated by the Climate Act. They also conduct key reviews and reports on climate policy preparation and implementation, including scientific reviews on mitigation and adaptation relevant to the planning and monitoring of the Climate Act. The Panel chooses to address themes it considers to be central to policy making. Reports are produced in working groups of three to five panellists with the help of outside researchers.

In addition, preparatory bodies for climate policy, such as ministries, may submit requests for information to the Panel. Reports are usually published in Finnish, but several are also available in English. To date the Panel has published several reports, alongside shorter communications and statements, for policy preparation and implementation.

Interaction
The members of the Panel often write opinion pieces or responses in major Finnish newspapers, as a way to engage in discussion of relevant topics and to provide the public with knowledge on what the scientific community thinks of issues discussed. Panel members often speak at events, seminars and conferences. Press releases are sent out when reports and published. Panel members are often interviewed in the media regarding relevant current issues. The Panel has a Twitter account to promote its reports and action to the wider public, but in general their main target group per the Climate act is policy makers.

The German Advisory Council on the Environment - Sachverständigenrat für Umweltfragen

www.umweltrat.de/EN

Background
The German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU) is an expert advisory body whose mission is to describe and assess environmental conditions, problems, and political trends and to point out solutions and preventive measures. The SRU monitors various fields of action in environmental policy, in particular the development of the key conservation resources such as soil, air, water and natural environments. They focus on the main sectors impacting the environment, such as energy, transport, agriculture, and other relevant general topics including sustainability strategies and the economy.

The SRU was established by a charter of the Federal Ministry of the Interior on December 28, 1971, as part of the federal government's environmental programme of October 1971. There have been some amendments to it since, but the SRU has existed continuously since then.

Structure
The SRU consists of seven university professors from different disciplines who have expert knowledge and experience in environmental protection. This composition guarantees an interdisciplinary approach, which takes into account scientific, technological, economic, legal and ethical perspectives. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety appoints the members of the SRU based on a Cabinet decision. The Ministry draws up a list of potential members to approach after consulting current members, whether they want to continue their duties. A combination of disciplines and themes is aimed for when candidates are nominated. The period of tenure is four years and reappointment is possible. The current term of office will expire in June 2020.

The SRU is a relatively old organisation compared to many other environmental advisory boards and there have always been seven council members. The benefit of having a small council is the following equal engagement of each member to their council work. On the other hand, if even one or two members are not able to attend meetings this is a significant loss to the work of the council, as they are not able to legally make decisions in this case. Also, the broad scope of the council could be validation for a few more council members to strengthen the interdisciplinary approach of the council without losing the efficient dynamics of a compact council.

The agenda of the following meeting is generally decided on in the previous meeting. The chairperson may put further items on the agenda as needed. The chairperson also determines which staff members should be included in the discussion of each agenda item. Various authorities as well as experts, in particular representatives of business and environmental organisations, can be invited to meetings to present their expertise. If necessary, the chairman may call for a meeting without prior decision, if at least two members so request. The Council inform the Federal Minister of their work and provides ministerial representatives the opportunity to comment on essential questions concerning the Council’s tasks. Opinions on behalf of the Council can only be given by the chairperson or a member authorised by the Council on a case-by-case basis. If the chairperson is unable to attend, the appointed deputy chairperson may carry out required duties. Tasks of the chairperson can be delegated to the deputy chairperson with the consent of the Council.

Working groups are formed for the processing of individual reports. Usually there is work on one to three reports simultaneously. The Council meet once a month for two consecutive days to further council matters and consult with the secretariat. The Council's key task is to guide and initiate the work of the secretariat in providing the reports required to fulfil the SRU's mandated tasks. The secretariat does most of the reporting and writing work, with the assistance of the Council. Sometimes a council member may themselves be involved in the actual writing, if they have the required specialist knowledge and the time. The staff time available for SRU work is fixed, so the only flexibility in a case of additional work required is to use the budgetary allocation set aside for outsourcing research work.

Secretariat
The Environment Council are assisted by a secretariat, which is managed by the Secretary General. The Council supervises the work of the Secretariat in relation to matters of direction and content. The Federal Environmental Agency has legal and administrative oversight of the SRU and provide the infrastructural framework and logistics. However, the SRU are located in their own building, have separate communications channels and are in every practical aspect independent. The secretariat is based in Berlin.

The secretariat manages the SRU's administrative affairs and assists in performing the duties assigned to the SRU. In particular, this includes organisational and management assistance as well as research support. The Council supervises the work of the Secretariat in relation to expert matters. The secretariat consists of:

- Expert staff of nine in the secretariat, who do the main research work.
- Staff at Council members home organisations, who are funded by the government for half of their working time for the use of Council matters.
- Other staff of seven people, tasked with production of reports, secretarial duties, administration, IT and general support for the Council.
- The Secretary General and the Managing Director

The SRU thus employs 25 people altogether, amounting to 19 full-time equivalents. There are no communications specialists in the secretariat, but all work is done in-house with the time and talent available in the existing staff. Based on interest and skills, staff divide the communications tasks of the secretariat, including updating social media or writing press releases.

When the composition of the council changes, the structure of the secretariat can be adjusted to balance the SRU work. The expertise in the Council is matched by similar expertise in the secretariat to ensure efficient production of reports on topics the Council has decided on. It is considered important to have representation of political sciences to understand institutional issues and governmental structures. This insures the SRU's reports have applicable and practical information in addition to the scientific evidence as the basis, and the understanding of why certain policies have not previously been implemented. An increase in lacking expertise, such as communications or agriculture, could be a possible addition to the skill set of the SRU.

Funding
The SRU is funded by the government through the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The budget is not set out in any legal document but covers the costs of staff (19 full time equivalents) and a budget of about €0.5 million for office, publication, travel and research allowances. This includes the payment of €20,000 per year for each Council member, who receive this in compensation for the working time invested (22 full days of council meetings per year plus time for reading, writing, public appearances etc.). The SRU has their own building and brand but is integrated into EPA infrastructure. The benefits are not having to create their own administration system (i.e. legal services or human resource services and thus having increased running costs). On the other hand, the SRU must then use the systems established in the EPA regarding i.e. the amount of paperwork and set processes.

Publications
The SRU submits an Environmental Report to the German federal government every four years. The report describes and assesses environmental policy developments and provides in-depth analyses of selected topics.

In addition, the SRU issues Special Reports in which specific environmental problems are examined in detail. These reports typically take one to two years to complete. In order to be able to advise the federal government in a timely manner before important environmental decisions are made, the SRU also issues Statements and Comments in which it formulates shorter but equally sound information. Their work is not just to assess, but

to form recommendations and arguments to support certain actions deemed necessary according to science. They want to impact policy and ensure advocacy of environmental matters, based on independent review. The SRU provide recommendations on topical environmental questions, for example in relation to ongoing legislative processes.

Interaction
It is stated in law that the SRU is independent. They are not especially close to policy-making but are in close interaction with government officials in regards to current topics and gaps in information. The SRU focus on producing reports available to all by providing information for public debate from scientific evidence. They aim to inform the media, organisations and the public in addition to their key audience of decision-makers.

The SRU are considered a reliable source of information. Several NGOs draw on their work as a neutral provider of information. Council members have a strong media presence, and will often speak in public, in seminars or on the news. A newsletter on key SRU information is sent out - when relevant - to thousands who have registered to receive such information.

The National Environmental Council of Hungary - Országos Környezetvédelmi Tanács

www.oktt.hu

Background
The National Environmental Council (OKT) was established in 1995 through the Environmental Act. This legislation gives the Council the mandate to take a stand on key elements of environmental programmes, on the legal rules and decisions related to environmental protection and on other issues related to environmental protection. The government is obliged to request the opinion of the Council on environmental issues when there is a legislative proposal pending and environmental impact reports being reviewed. The council is also authorized to suggest topics on the agenda of the government.

The Council produce opinions on all proposed laws and regulations relating to the environment in the initial phase or when there is an open call for the public to give opinions. The Council also issue statements on environmental impact reports as well as environmental plans and programs. The Council are responsible for advising the government on the improvement of the institutional systems for nature protection and environmental issues. Special attention is paid to scientific research, education and information provision.

Structure
The Council consist of 22 members. The Hungarian law specifies which different institutions will sit on the Council and how many seats each organisation will receive. These organisations then nominate persons to represent them on the Council. Council members are appointed for a period of five years but can be replaced if necessary from within their own organization. The chair position is held for two years. Each of the three sectors of the Council present one candidate for the chairmanship, and they each then serve two years as chair. The council members come from different sections of society:

- Seven members are designated by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, such as members of the Academy and university professors or colleagues of scientific research institutions from various specialist fields (water management, ecology, environmental economy, meteorology, environmental health, environmental law etc.)
- Seven members are delegated by the National Federation of Employers and Industrial Companies (MGyOSz), from the private sector, representing sectors such as waste management, chemical or energy companies.
- Seven members are delegated by green NGOs. These green NGOs, of which there are around 100, have an annual assembly and choose who will represent them on the Council (such as Birdlife Hungary, WWF Hungary, Friends of the Earth Hungary, CEEweb).
- One member, who is the co-chair to the elected chair. This co-chair is always the minister or state secretary responsible for environmental protection, and acts as a contact person between the government and the Council. The co-chair provides information when requested, and only occasionally attends meetings, when it is relevant. The co-chair presents government plans if relevant for council work but does not vote on the council, for example when agreeing on statements or key messages.

The work of the Council is structured into six committees focusing on issues such as energy policy, waste management, environmental policy, transport, air quality, water management and quality, and agricultural and nature protection. The committees then formulate opinions of each subject matter. This is then put to the whole Council for approval or opposition, until there is consensus and the opinion can be published as a formal Council opinion.

Council members do not have council tasks officially as part of their regular job de facto. Members use about three hours a week on Council matters, depending on the amount of government action requiring Council opinion. The manner of appointment from their own organisation, and the fact that there is no payment to the activities as a council member, guarantees the independence of the council and its members.

Secretariat
The Council are supported by its own independent secretariat, which is administratively part of the ministry responsible for environmental protection and conservation, currently the Ministry of Agriculture, and stated in legislation. Currently, the staff consists of one secretary general and one part-time administrator.

The main tasks of the secretariat are to organise the monthly meetings, invite speakers of ministries, who prepared the document that they will talk and form opinion about, and send the statements to the responsible ministry or department. If the Council cannot address a question brought to them, the secretariat will form an opinion, send to the members for approval and correction, and then send to the relevant ministry. Sometimes they may only produce a "the Council has nothing to add" comment to provided questions, if such is the case.

Funding
The Ministry of Agriculture finances the salaries of the secretariat and provides spaces for Council meetings. The Council does not have any of its own finances. Council members are not compensated or reimbursed for any costs.

Publications
Their opinions and positions of planned policy are published, but as they receive documents in a stage when they are not available to the public, publication is not very active. They do not publicise their work especially, but those who are interested can reach and use information provided by the Council from their website.

Interaction
The main interaction of the Council is targeted towards the government, but Council statements can be used by everyone who deals with the issue in question. The Council is independent from the government, but still an advisory board of the government, so they are a part of policy making, but independent from political parties. Their opinions are always presented as independent Council opinions with scientific or other basis, no matter what members' organisations may publish as their opinions. The Council is meant to be a forum where ideas can be exchanged about environmental issues. This includes organising stakeholder dialogues in preparation for the work of the council, but not as an official process of the Council.

The Irish Climate Change Advisory Council

http://www.climatecouncil.ie/

Background
The Irish Climate Change Advisory Council was established on 18 January 2016 under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. The Irish Climate Change Advisory Council advises, assess and monitors Government policy and its impact on the behaviour of industry, agriculture, and the energy and transport sectors in terms of the country's international obligations to become carbon neutral by 2050. It gives advice to the government and comments on climate plans and publishes evidence-based reports.

The primary goal of the Council is to provide feedback and recommendations to policy makers. The Council, with the support of its Secretariat, conducts evidence-based analysis on how best to respond to the impact of climate change and provide timely advice on the most effective policies to assist with Ireland's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. As part of this work, the Climate Change Advisory Council provides regular reports regarding Ireland's progress in achieving its national policy goals and greenhouse gas emissions targets agreed by the European Union.

Structure
The Council consists of a chairperson, and ten other members. There are certain posts, which have automatic ex-officio membership on the Council:

- the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency
- the Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- the Director of Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority
- the Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute

The additional six members are nominated or approached by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to serve on the Council. There is no open call for members. The government appoints the Council on the nomination of the Minister, and considers the range of qualifications, expertise and experience necessary for the proper and effective performance of the functions of the Advisory Council in its appointment.

The chairperson and members can serve on the Council for a maximum of a five-year term, and may be reappointed once, serving the maximum of two terms on the Council. Most, if not all, Council members see their work on the Council as part of their job. The Council gathers around six times a year for a Council meeting. All meeting minutes are available on their website, in addition to all publications by the Council.

The current Council consist of mainly economists, but the necessity for information from other fields has been solved by inviting non-members to present to the Council from different sectors and research fields. The visiting experts usually hold a presentation on their field of speciality upon request, and afterwards there is plenty of time provided for joint discussion.

The benefit of the ex-officio members, who are in leading positions in their organisations, is the possibility to draw upon their home organisations for information required for Council work. They represent their organisations as part of the Council, but discussion between all members is flexible and efficient for reaching Council consensus.

Secretariat
The Council are supported in its work by a secretariat, which is made up of four permanent staff. The secretariat does not work full time on council matters, but its prime focus is to support the work of the Council. They do have other tasks within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which provides the secretariat staff and supports the Council with its corporate services and functions within its governance structures. The secretariat relies on the EPA for operational support including access to offices, meeting rooms and IT systems, in order to carry out its work. The Council have their own operational budget of 270 000€ (not including salaries of the secretariat) within the overall EPA budget. The secretariat staff are legally employed by EPA, who are responsible for their management. Some members also support the international work of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

The role of the secretariat is primarily to assist the Council in providing advice and recommendations on policies proposed and implemented by the government. The Secretariat for example develops texts for reports and compiles meeting papers and prepares most of the work under the guidance of the Chair and Council, and the Council would then provide feedback. The Secretariat also has a role within the EPA to assist on climate matters internally.

Funding
The Council is funded by the government, through the EPA. Their annual budget is approximately €270,000, not including salaries of the secretariat. The salaries are paid by the EPA. The base funding goes towards paying meeting costs, travel and subsistence expenses for Council members, report design and publishing, contribution to EPA core costs for i.e. infrastructural for the secretariat, stationary costs, expenses for secretariat associated with travel for Council and any external consultant costs for work that is required. Some funds go towards reimbursing some institutions for certain Council members' time, since there is a 'one-institution-one-salary' rule in Ireland (the academics on the Council are ineligible to receive a personal payment, so their institutions are reimbursed for their time used). The chair is compensated 16 250€ and others 9 800€ annually for their work on the Council. The ex-officio members who represent their organisations do not get compensated for being on the Council.

Publications
The Council produces an on-going work programme that provides continuous input to and assessment of national climate change initiatives. The Council are mandated under legislation to produce an Annual Review every year, which consists of a review and report on progress made during the immediately preceding year in achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions. There is also a Periodic Review Report, where the Council reviews and report on progress made in meeting both the 2020 and 2030 European greenhouse gas reduction targets and progress made in furthering the achievement of the national transition objective. They also provide and publish feedback on major policy initiatives such as the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework. Other publications include letters and responses to relevant governmental entities, who have either requested advice or otherwise require the attention of the Council to keep to the path of carbon neutrality in Ireland by 2050.

In practice, the work for the publications is done by the secretariat, but under the guidance of the Council. The Council are in essence an advisory body, who set out the direction for the secretariat who then conduct the work in practice for the reviews, letters, responses and reports.

Interaction
The role of the Irish Climate Change Advisory Council in society is to make sure the path towards carbon neutrality is followed. Interaction is most often in the form of recommendations to policymakers, and direct feedback is provided by inviting policy makers into the Council meetings to provide presentations followed by discussion. Communications regarding certain policies or draft legislation directly are often communicated via direct contact (letters).

Council members, in particular the Chair, often receive invitations to speak. Requests for meetings from NGOs, stakeholders, private companies and public are also plentiful. For example, at a Citizens Assembly, the Chair of the Council and a number of other Council members provided presentations to the assembly on the topic of how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change. The Chair of the Council often gives presentations at conferences and seminars on climate change. The Council also received a lot of media coverage when major reports are published.

The legislation clearly states that it is not the Council's role to make the policy, but to provide advice and recommendations on policy initiatives. Independence and neutrality of the council is also written into the legislation.

The closest connection to another entity, in addition to the ex-officio members of the council, is the connection to the EPA, through which funding and the secretariat are provided. The EPA plays key roles in environmental regulation, provision of knowledge and advocacy for the environment. It is an independent public body in charge environmental protection and policing. Interaction between the Council and the EPA, the Council's Secretariat, despite formally being the staff of the EPA, have clear roles for themselves on what is Council or EPA work. For example, all Council data is on a separate server from the EPA, and they each handle their own Freedom of Information Requests.

The Swedish Climate Policy Council - Klimatpolitiska rådet

www.klimatpolitiskaradet.se/summary-in-english/

Background
The Climate Policy Council is tasked with evaluating how the government's overall policy is consistent with the climate objectives decided by the Parliament and Government focused on mitigation. The Climate Policy Council shall in particular:

- Determine whether certain policies work towards or against climate objectives
- Highlight the effects of decisions and proposed policy instruments from society's perspective and identify policy areas where further action is needed
- Analyse how both short and long-term goals can be achieved in a cost-effective way
- Evaluate the basis and models on which the government builds its policies.

The Council was established in 2017 and started their work in January 2018.

Structure
The Council is an independent authority with its secretariat set up at the Formas Research Council. The Council consists of a chairman, a vice chairman and six other members. All members are appointed by the government based on a proposal from the Council. The first members of the Council were appointed by the government after consultations with those opposition parties that agreed on the climate policy framework and the climate law.

The appointments are given for a fixed term, but not more than six consecutive years for the chairman and no more than three consecutive years for the other members. A non-chairman who is proposed to be chairman may be appointed for a further three years. The Council itself proposes members for the following Council, who have high scientific competence in the fields of climate science, climate policy, economics, social sciences and behavioural science, and that an even distribution of skills and experience is achieved. An even gender distribution should be pursued, and the Council's proposal must be submitted to the government no later than three months before the previous term has expired.
The current structure of the council's backgrounds is that all council members are professors in universities or research institutes, and the chair has a background in industry and leading government organisations.

Secretariat
Formas provides the Council's secretariat premises and performs the required administrative and handling tasks. The secretariat has two senior analysts with economic and scientific backgrounds to start with. One or two more analysts may be added later. The current head of the secretariat has experience from senior positions in both government and the private sector. In addition to the secretariat, researchers may be employed for a fixed term to produce a report, or consultations on certain jobs may be outsourced. Due to the limited staff resources, much of the information will be gathered from others' scientific studies and with reference to specialists in relevant fields. The secretariat will do most of the writing work with the Council being an advisory board for their work.

Funding
The Council will each year report on how the work has been carried out during the year, how the agency's office is organized and how financial resources have been used. The total funding currently equals to about 1 million euro per year, accounting for all costs for the Council. Formas provides the infrastructure including legal and some communications support. Council members are compensated €5,000 and the chair €10,000. They work on council matters in their free time, it is not part of their jobs. The Council has planned to have seven to eight meetings a year for members and the preparatory work required for these meetings.

Publication
The Council will each year produce the government with an assessment of how climate action and emissions develop, an assessment on how government policy is compatible with the climate targets, and any other analyses and assessments made by the Council. Every fourth year, the year after parliamentary elections, the government is legally mandated to present for the parliament a Climate Action Plan, which the Council will provide their opinion on.

Interaction
It is explicitly mentioned within the terms of reference that the Council should contribute to an increased public discussion of climate change and policy. The Council is forming its strategy and working procedures. Given the broad mandate and limited resources it is likely that the council, and especially the secretariat, will work in interaction with many other state agencies and other stakeholders. At the beginning of their first term, an enquiry was sent out to all stakeholders including businesses, organisations and NGOs to map out expectations for the council and to discover how to cover areas lacking focus in climate change issues. As the Council will meet and work from Formas, there will be the need to communicate clearly the independence of the Council as a separate entity, and this will be one of the focus areas in communications in the first year of the secretariat's work.

The United Kingdom's Committee on Climate Change

www.theccc.org.uk

Background

The Committee on Climate Change (the CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act of 2008. Its purpose is to advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. The Committee provides independent advice on setting and meeting carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. It monitors progress in reducing emissions and meeting carbon budgets and targets, and conducts independent analysis of climate change science, economics and policy as it relates to both carbon budgets and adaptation. The Committee engages with a wide range of organisations and individuals to help inform, and share, its evidence and analysis. Its primary role is to provide advice to Government on the level of carbon budgets and report to Parliament on progress towards them, as well as reporting on the UK's progress in adapting to climate change impacts.

Structure

The Committee consists of a Chairman and eight independent members, along with six Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) members. It is jointly sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. The Committee meets once a month. The Audit Committee supports both the CCC and ASC and the Chief Executive in their respective responsibilities for control and governance. The Chief Executive is appointed by the CCC Chair with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Defra and Devolved Ministers.

The CCC Chair and ASC Chair, and members of both committees, are appointed for a period of five years by the responsible ministers acting jointly. They can be appointed for two consecutive terms. The Climate Change Act requires that when making appointments to the CCC Board, the national authorities have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the Committee as a whole has experience and knowledge of:

- Business competitiveness
- Climate change policy at national and international level, and in particular its social impacts
- Climate science, and other branches of environmental science
- Differences in circumstances between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the capacity of national authorities to take action in relation to climate change
- Economic analysis and forecasting
- Emissions trading
- Energy production and supply
- Financial investment and
- Technology development and diffusion

Secretariat

The Chief Executive leads a secretariat of around 30 staff who provide analytical and corporate support to the CCC and ASC. The Secretariat does much of the practical work of research, writing, reporting and communications. The Committee comments on and reviews reports in detail before publication. The Secretariat are recruited internally within the civil service and government organisations in addition to external sources. Several of the current staff are permanent civil servants who have previously worked in other governmental organisations. The staff are fully employed by the Committee and work solely on Committee matters and are independent of government.

The secretariat is divided into teams. The mitigation team of around 20 consists of staff with knowledge of various sectors such as agriculture, transport, power and electricity, aviation, shipping, international climate policy, buildings, hydrogen, bioenergy, waste, fluorinated gases, and industry. The mitigation team has a team leader, a Head of Carbon Budgets, a Head of Science and employs both senior and junior staff, with a number of economists to assist with statistical and numerical analysis. The adaptation team has five staff with expertise in built environment, flooding, natural environment, infrastructure and the role of business and finance in responding to climate change. In addition to the focus on mitigation and adaptation, there is a corporate team consisting of two people working on communications, three on business management, finance and HR, a chief economist, a chief executive and a private secretary.

Publications
The CCC is tasked with recommending carbon budgets and reporting on progress towards meeting emissions targets, as well as producing a statutory report on the exploitation of onshore petroleum for carbon budgets (required under the Infrastructure Act). The CCC does not normally provide detailed recommendations or proposals on specific policies required to meet the carbon budgets, as this is the task of the Government.

In addition to their statutory duties the Committee can decide independently which topics to focus on. Carbon budgets are one of the main issues they work on, but in addition they do regularly commission research or 'deep dive' reports to inform their thinking about critical issues, such as bioenergy or the future of heating. Every two years a report on adaptation is produced for the government. This report monitors progress in preparing for climate change, as directed by the UK's National Adaptation Programme which guides action in this area. The CCC can also receive requests for advice or support outside of its normal work-cycle, for example if the devolved administration of Scotland asks for a review of their progress on preparing for the impacts of climate change, the ASC would then receive additional funding from the requestors to produce such a report.
The CCC publishes an annual report of its activities together with its audited accounts after the end of each financial year.

Funding
The CCC is jointly-sponsored by BEIS (the UK Government), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Irish Government. The ASC is jointly sponsored by Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Irish Government.

The Committee is free to independently use the funds it is given as it deems necessary for completing its statutory duties, including hiring staff. The CCC is audited twice a year by the National Audit Office to ensure financial stability and good practice. Committee members are compensated £500 to £700 for CCC working days. The Committee members are under a contractual agreement to work for two days a month on Committee matters. One day is typically the actual committee meeting, the other day is for commenting on reports and other tasks, as Committee members often sit on panels or give presentations as part of their role as a CCC member. The Chair has a contract to work three days per month.

Interaction
As stated in the CCC's framework document, there are several guidelines for interaction with policy-makers. In order to establish the credibility of the carbon budgeting framework, it is important that the government analysts in the UK Government and Devolved Administrations have a shared understanding of the assumptions on which the Committee bases its advice, while at the same time maintaining the analytical independence of the Committee. By maintaining a shared understanding, unnecessary duplication in analysis can be avoided. A Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Modelling and sharing of analysis and research between relevant UK Government Departments, Devolved Administrations and the CCC was signed in 2009. A key working group comprising the Committee's secretariat and officials from the UK Government and Devolved Administrations has been set up to facilitate the sharing of information, through a sub-group of analysts formed from the UK Government's Inter-Departmental Analysts Group (IAG) and the Devolved Administrations. This group meets as required, rather than according to a fixed schedule. There is also a Liaison Group, established as an official-level working group representing the five national authorities who may exercise functions under the Climate Change Act. This group is kept informed of the results of the monitoring and risk assessments by the CCC, and of the progress of any concerns raised with the CCC and the ASC and any interventions taken as a result.

Other interaction with policy-makers is on regular basis at meetings and industry events. The Committee often receives presentations from senior civil servants and occasionally from ministers. Despite working closely with government officials, the Committee and secretariat are independent and impartial. There is no statutory duty to engage in targeted public communications (e.g. awareness raising) campaigns, but the Committee must "have regard to the desirability of involving the public in the exercise of its functions" and "publish [its] advice in such manner as it considers appropriate". Indeed, Committee members often speak in public or attend events. The CCC's website provides basic information on climate change in the UK, and detailed information about the CCC/ASC and their reports.

Regarding transparency issues, there is an entire section on the CCC website section providing information on the use of funds, meeting minutes and other documents. Information is available on expenditure, gifts and hospitality received, and statements of close affiliations of CCC members to other organisations. The CCC has similar accountability practices to other independent bodies of government.

Australian Climate Council

www.climatecouncil.org.au

Background
The Climate Council is a non-profit independent organisation which aims to provide clear, independent information on climate change to the Australian community. They are completely independent and apolitical. This Council was preceded by the Climate Commission, which was an independent expert body established in 2011 by the government. However, the subsequent government, elected in 2013, abolished the Commission. Members of the Commission quickly regrouped into the Climate Council and started a crowd-funding campaign to raise funds.

Structure
When the Climate Council was first set up, all Councillors committed to volunteer their time for six months, to ensure the production of authoritative, independent information about climate change following the abolition of the Climate Commission. After the first six months, the Board decided that Councillors would receive remuneration for time spent on Council activities. This ensures we can continue to draw on the knowledge and experience of world-class experts to provide Australians with the best possible information on climate change.

The Councillors are i.e. climate scientists, researchers, policy and business leaders who are experts in their fields. Their work is overseen by an independent Board and the Councillors are assisted by team of staff and volunteers.

Interaction
The main purpose of the Council is to provide journalists and the public with authoritative independent reports. This is accomplished by providing a range of communications materials relevant to different audiences, videos, infographics, fact sheets and other resources. They also provide information to the Australian public directly via speeches, community forums and briefings.

Funding
Thousands of Australians have become Founding Friends of the Council, together raising more that $1 million. The Council is completely independent and relies solely on donations from the public. Donations are used to fund a small team of staff and volunteers, including expert researchers to help produce reports. Funds are also required for design, printing and distribution of reports, and core overhead expenses for the organisation. The Council has estimated that in the 2016 volunteers contributed $320,000 worth of their time. In the 2016/17 financial year they received a total of $3,144,623 in community and major donations from more than 12,000 supporters. Expenditure in 2016/2017 was $2,759,446. The Climate Council's number of regular and monthly donors grew to more than 4440 people with the average size of a regular donation being $30.

National Climate Protection Committee of Austria

www.bmnt.gv.at/english/environment/Climateprotect/The-Austrian-Climate-Change-Act.html

Two official bodies, the National Climate Protection Committee (Nationales Klimaschutzkomitee, NKK) and the National Climate Protection Advisory Board (Nationaler Klimaschutzbeirat, NKB), accompany the implementation of the Climate Change Act of 2011 on a continuous basis. In a 2017 amendment to the law, the Klimaschutzbeirat was abolished, and there is now just the Nationales Klimaschutzkomitee. The NKK is composed of top representatives of the Federal Government and Provinces and the social partners. The members of the NKB, which has the duty to advise the NKK, included representatives of the parliamentary parties, environmental organisations and science. There is also an annual progress report documenting the work accomplished in the context of Act's implementation, which is submitted to the National Council and the NKK.

National Climate Protection Committee NKK
The Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management houses the National Climate Protection Committee. The National Climate Protection Committee advises on fundamental issues concerning Austrian climate policy in the light of the objectives of the Paris Agreement, in particular on the long-term reduction greenhouse gas emissions towards a low-carbon society, adaptation to unavoidable consequences of climate change and long-term scenarios for energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption.

The NKK is composed of one representative each of the political parties represented in the National Council, one high-ranking representative each from several ministries and interest groups. Members of the Committee are not compensated monetarily.

Austrian Council on Climate Change
Not known if still exists or has been renamed National Climate Protection Advisory Board

The Austrian Council on Climate Change (ACCC) was founded in 1996. It is an interdisciplinary working group consisting of 11 members from the areas of economics, science and technology, which aims to determine and evaluate measures relating to the prevention of Global Climate Change. Consequently, the ACCC advised the Austrian Government on all questions regarding Climate Change.

In addition, the Council also participated in international research programmes, determined the consequences of Climate Change for Austria, organized workshops for various target groups, published a newsletter four times a year, strived to create awareness of global environmental problems by providing information to the public.

The main objective was to provide information about national and international climate policy and research. This is done in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management as well as with the Federal Environmental Agency.

The Federal Council for Sustainable Development for Belgium (FRDO)

www.frdo-cfdd.be/en/the-council

Background
The FRDO advises and coordinates the Belgian federal government on sustainable development policy and focusing on international commitments including UN commitments. The FRDO was set up in 1997 and amended in 2010 and it replaced the National Council for Sustainable Development established in 1993.

The statutory duties of the Council are:

- to advise the government on all measures concerning federal policy on sustainable development and to take part in policy dialogue with members of the government
- to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas on sustainable development. This includes the organisation of dialogues with stakeholders in preparation for the drafting of opinions within the statutory bodies, working groups and forums
- to provide information and raise awareness about sustainable development among citizens, individuals and public bodies. This mainly takes the form of workshops, a sustainable development press award, and publications
- to conduct research in all areas relating to sustainable development.

The Council works closely to government by providing formal opinions and advice upon request. The process continues with follow-ups from officials on how the opinions and advice have been taken into account. The Council itself may also bring up a topic to work on if such a topic is decided on in council meetings.

Structure
The members of the Council are representatives of various social groups: environmental organisations, organisation for development cooperation, consumers, employees' and employers' bodies, youth organisations and academia. Representatives of the federal government, language communities and regions,

environmental councils and socio-economic councils are non-voting members. At the moment, Jean-Pascal van Ypersele chairs the working group on energy and climate and is active on the Council. All Council opinions are prepared in the working group meetings. When there is a consensus on the draft opinion the General Council of the FRDO can approve it.

Secretariat
The staff members of the secretariat prepare the meetings and write the drafts, based on the discussions in the working group. The FRDO secretariat consists of eight people. Each staff member works together with a specific working group.

Funding
The members of the council receive a limited fee for every meeting they attend (general council or working group). They do their Council work as a part of their job or mandate. The Council receives yearly amount of around €210,000 to pay for all their tasks. The bureau of the council has the possibility to decide between certain limits, depending on e.g. if they decide to organise a seminar or not. There is an amount of money foreseen for international travel costs, to be used for e.g. the trip to UN negotiations. The members decide how they divide this money among themselves.

Publication
Their main method of interactions is through their published opinions or during seminars (i.e. on climate and health). Their work is targeted solely towards policy-makers. They publish all their opinions in Dutch and French, some of them in English or German too. They have a general newsletter on activities and one on SDGs available from their website, Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter pages. There is no policy of regular press statements on issues in the news or positions of the government. But if a council member decides so, they can go for larger press coverage. The Council also has the possibility to fund research and could decide to actively promote the results in the media. It is not in the mandate of the Council to play a very active role in public discussions in the media, but they make their opinions known to decision-makers (ministers and members of parliament, stakeholders, units of the administration, other advisory councils). The newsletters and seminars are instead targeted at the more general public.

Cambodia's National Council for Sustainable Development

/www.camclimate.org.kh/en/policies/ncsd-structure.html

Background
In 2006, the Royal Government of Cambodia established the National Climate Change Committee, a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary body with the mandate to prepare, coordinate and monitor the implementation of policies, strategies, legal instruments, plans and programmes related to climate change. With an amendment in 2014, the NCCC has functioned since its establishment as an inter-ministerial mechanism for coordination of climate change response in the country.

Its functions have been taken over by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) since its establishment in May 2015. The Council comprises high-level representatives (Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State) of concerned government ministries and agencies, with the Prime Minister as its Honorary Chair and the Minister of Environment as its Chair.

The number of members on the NCSD has increased compared to the NCCC, covering a greater number of ministries and agencies, including provincial governors. Currently, NCSD has made efforts to improve the coordination of climate change activities in Cambodia and to promote a stronger, comprehensive and effective climate change response, including the preparation of the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, the Sectoral Climate Change Action Plans and the Climate Change Financing Framework.

Secretariat
The NCSD has a General Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment. The Secretariat run the day-to-day tasks of the NCSD, develop and implement programmes and work plans of the NCSD subject to their review and approval. The Secretariat facilitates preparation of legal instruments, policy, strategic plans, action plans, programmes and projects related to sustainable development and coordinate their implementation, and also conduct monitoring and evaluation. The Secretariat coordinate and support the strengthening of cooperation related to sustainable development with development partners, civil society, private sector, academia, and

relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global levels. They lead and coordinate research and study, education, training and exchange of technologies related to sustainable development

National Leading Committee on Climate Change of China

Background
The Chinese government established National Leading Committee on Climate Change based on the former National Coordination Committee on Climate Change (NCCCC) to effectively address climate change issue. Established in 2006, the 3rd term of the National Climate Change Expert Committee started in 2016. They work on the low-carbon development strategy toward 2050, carbon market mechanism and construction, green low-carbon development pattern, climate change science and policy study.

The Committee is a governmental entity, so not an independent advisory council. It does however have several members with academic backgrounds amongst its members. The leading tasks of the leading group are to study and formulate major national strategies, guidelines and countermeasures against climate change; to unify the arrangements for tackling climate change; to study and examine international cooperation and negotiations on major issues; to coordinate and solve major issues in tackling climate change; Implement the guidelines and policies of the State Council on energy conservation and emission reduction work, unify the deployment of energy conservation and emission reduction work, study and deliberate major policy suggestions and coordinate the resolution of major issues in our work.

Structure
The committee is comprised of 42 members in the fields of atmospheric science, oceans, hydrology, geology, ecology, forestry, energy, transportation, building, economics, law and international relations. The members' organisations include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Science and Technology; Industry and Information Technology; Finance; Land and Resource; Environment Protection; Housing and Urban-Rural Development; Transport; Water Resources; Agriculture; Commerce; and Health. Organisations of other members are the State Council, the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Bureau of Statistics, the State Forest Administration, the China Academy of Science, the China Meteorological Administration, the National Energy Bureau, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the State Oceanic Administration

The Climate Institute of Canada

https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/expert-engagement-initiative.html

The Canadian government organised a bid in 2018 for providing independent expert advise on climate policy and clean growth. The bid was won by the Pan-Canadian Expert Collaboration, who will from spring 2019 for five years generate, communicate and mobilize trusted information, policy, advice, and best practices to the general public, stakeholders and governments in Canada. They will conduct their own research and analysis, as well as engage with leaders, experts and practitioners from across Canada. The funding available to them will be up to $20 million over five years.

The National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism of the Dominican Republic - El Consejo Nacional para el Cambio Climático y Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio CNCCMDL

cambioclimatico.gob.do/sobre-la-institucion/

The CNCCMDL was established in 2008 to combine the efforts of the institutions that concern the development of the Domican Republic to combat the global problem of climate change. It is chaired by the President and is composed of the heads of the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Economy, Planning and Development, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Industry and Trade and Public Health and Social Assistance. There are also members from the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, the National Energy Commission, the Office for the Reorganization of Transport, the Superintendence of Electricity, the Dominican Corporation of State Electric Companies, the Association of Banks of the Dominican Republic,

the Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic, the private generators of the national energy sector, the National Council of Private Enterprise and representatives of civil society organizations.

The Environment and Nature Council of Flanders – Minaraad

www.minaraad.be

Background

The Environment and Nature Council of Flanders, in short the Minaraad, is an advisory body of the Flemish Government. The Council has the mandate to study, recommend and advice on issues related to the environment and nature. The Council also deals with themes such as sustainable development, spatial planning, energy, mobility, agriculture and natural resources, as environmental policy is understood to include all these issues too. The Council was established by in 1995 and has founded in federal legislation.

The advice provided by the Council is not binding. Decision-makers are free to integrate the provided arguments and comments into their policy or not. The Council, on its own initiative or at the request of the Flemish Government or the Flemish Parliament, issue opinions on environmental policy or on the environmental aspect of sustainable development. The Council follows and interprets social and policy development for the environment and for the environmental aspects of sustainable development and contributes to the formulation of a policy vision on environmental policy.

It is mandatory for the Flemish Government to request advice on:

- preliminary drafts of decrees that concern environmental policy
- preliminary drafts of decrees that belong to other policy domains and that could have significant consequences for the environment;
- the draft Decrees of the Flemish Government that are concerned with environmental policy and of strategic importance.

The advice of the Minaraad may also relate other policy areas that may have significant consequences for the environment. Additionally, advice is provided on EU policies and conventions.

The Council's focus on climate issues is through advising on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the European Climate and Energy Package. This is the context in which the Council issue recommendations for the Flemish climate, energy and mobility policy.

Structure

The Council has 24 voting members, of which eight represent environmental organisations, six socio-economic organisations, two from planning organisations, two representing the interests of consumers, two representing provinces or municipalities, and four independent experts. A deputy member has also been appointed for each of the 20 first named members. Each year, one of the members acts as the Council chair. This takes place according to a rotation, in which the environmental, planning and socio-economic organisations take turns to name a chair.

There are permanent working committee for Forest Policy, Sustainable Development, Hunting Policy, Nature Policy, Nature and Environment Education, and Fishing. Each permanent work committee has a maximum of 16 members who are appointed for an indefinite period. The committees prepare draft recommendations for the Council to discuss. The Council always makes the final decision on the draft recommendations or other draft documents that are produced in the work committees. The Council aims for consensus in this. If no consensus is reached, a vote is held. The resulting voting ratio is shown in the advice, and comments can also be added to the recommendations to reflect the possible dissenting opinions.

In addition to the permanent committees, ad hoc committees are established to work on required issues. The work of the committees is the basis for all council activities. They analyse the problems presented and go into detail on discussion points to arrive at draft recommendations. The work committees are led by a work committee chair appointed by the Council and are composed of council members, deputy council members and experts appointed by them. Each work committee is assisted by at least one member of the secretariat.

Secretariat

The secretariat is responsible for the administrative and logistic support of the Council and its work committees, in addition to providing expert knowledge on issues discussed. The current secretariat consists of experts in water, environmental, energy, soil, waste, open space, nature, EU, international and sustainable development policy. There are six people focusing on these themes, three support staff (logistics, website, IT, general support) and a head of staff.

The High Council on Climate of France - Haut Conseil pour le Climat (HCC)

www.strategie.gouv.fr/chantiers/conseil-climat

The HCC was established in November 2018 by the President. They will publish annual reports on France's greenhouse gas emissions and compliance with the emission reduction paths. Analysis in these reports will evaluate existing and planned policies and measures and make recommendations to government. The HCC will also publish a report every five years to support the development of France's low-carbon national strategy and put France's actions and commitments into perspective with those of other countries.

The goal of the HCC is:

- Provide independent advice and recommendations on the development and achievement of France's carbon budgets and the policies put in place to combat climate change;
- Monitor France's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and respecting carbon budgets and the reduction trajectory to achieve France's objectives;
- Conduct independent analysis in the fields of climate science, economics and public policy.

A secretariat for the HCC is in the process of being set up.

The National Council on Climate Change of Guatemala – El Consejo Nacional de Cambio Climático

The National Council on Climate Change was created through the Framework Law to Regulate the Reduction of Vulnerability, Compulsory Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change and the Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases, Decree 7-2013 of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Article 8 that literally says: "Article 8. On the creation and scope of the National Council on Climate Change. This law is created by the National Council on Climate Change, chaired by the Presidency of the Republic, as a regulatory entity with public and private participation formed by each of the following sectors, as follows:

- The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources;
- The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food;
- The Minister of Energy and Mines;
- The Minister of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing;
- The Executive Secretary of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction, CONRED;
- A representative of indigenous organizations;
- A representative of peasant organizations;
- A representative of the Committee of Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations;
- A representative of the Chamber of Industry;
- A representative of the Chamber of Agriculture;
- A representative of the National Association of Municipalities, ANAM;
- A representative of indigenous people, AGAAI;
- A representative of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of Natural Resources and Environment, ASOREMA, endorsed by the National Climate Change Board;
- A representative of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala;
- A representative of the country's private universities.

The functions of this Council will include regulation, supervision of the implementation of actions and resolution of conflicts, to monitor the execution of the actions derived from this law, including the national climate change policy, the climate change fund, the strategies and action programs in mitigation (reduction of emissions) and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, -MARN- will be the Secretary of this Council, with the support of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency -SEGEPLAN-, who will facilitate and energize the functioning of the National Council.

The titular members may delegate their representation in accordance with the provisions that govern their respective institution or entity. "

Indian National Committee on Climate Change (INCCC)

Background

The Indian National Committee on Climate Change (INCCC) is a committee of 13 members with a combination of scientists and authorities, mainly from governmental organisations. The INCCC was formed to give advice to Central and State Governments and their agencies on matters related to climate change and to appoint expert panels to consider special problems to advice the committee. There is no climate change legislation mandating the work of the Committee. The INCCC is a part of the various research and development activities of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR RD & GR), Government of India.

Their main tasks are

- Downscaling of climate change models
- Assessment of impacts of climate change on water resources
- Adaptation strategies for changing climate scenarios
- Research and studies on all aspects related to the impact of climate change on water resources including quality aspects of water resources

They also identify areas in which there is a lack of research or funding, to avoid overlaps in the research programmes of the different institutions and to promote and coordinate effective participation of India in the international programmes.

Structure

There are 13 members on the committee, who are scientists and authorities mainly from governmental organisations. They are the officials of the Ministry working at the relevant positions for planning and development of various aspects of hydrology and water resources including four recognized technical experts and researchers in the areas of climate change, hydrology and water resources. The four technical experts are nominated for three years term

Secretariat

The INCCC does not conduct research for committee matters themselves. The INCCC has its Secretariat located at the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee. The INCCC Secretariat looks after coordination, monitoring and technical evaluation of the climate change related research projects.

Publications

The Committee distributes climate change related information by publishing journals and news on research. The research projects and studies sponsored by INCCC, are systematically examined and reviewed at pre-sanctioned stages by the group of technical experts of the committee. Subsequently, the INCCC secretariat monitors and technically evaluates the progress of research projects in the light of objectives of the projects and nation’s requirement and purpose for which projects are sanctioned and funded.

The INCCC secretariat publishes the following:

- The proceedings of conferences and seminars organised for the dissemination of knowledge and technical findings of research projects.
- The books compiling the lecture notes of training programme organized for the dissemination of technical knowledge, methodology and project outcomes for executives
- Special reports (status report/ technical reports/ regional reports) on different aspects of climate change and water resources related subjects prepared by the invited experts
- Relevant pamphlets and leaflets for knowledge dissemination and public awareness about climate change impacts on water resources and hydrologic extremes.

Interaction

The INCCC’s role in society is to develop better understanding and knowledge of climate change, develop methods and techniques for better assessment of various processes and components of climate change, which are responsible for significant impact in the hydrology and water resources in India. The technical experts and decision-makers are suitably associated and involved in monitoring of progress and evaluation of projects. Comments and opinions of technical experts on key research results and achievements are communicated to decision-makers from time to time. Further, they play important role in the dissemination of

knowledge and technology on climate change issues including supporting and conducting mass awareness programmes and to arrange Climate Change R&D review sessions.

The Committee is also mandated to maintain effective cooperation with other national committees or boards, related governmental entities, technology institutes, engineering colleges and polytechnics, universities and other academic institutions. They are an advisory committee, but not independent. The determining factor of the Committee is that they focuse on climate change from a water resource management perspective.

The National Climate Change Council of Kenya

The status of this council is unclear.

Background

The Climate Change Act designed for the development, management, implementation and regulation of mechanisms to enhance climate change resilience and low-carbon development for the sustainable development of Kenya, also establishes the National Climate Change Council as an overarching high-level national climate change mechanism. It also establishes the Climate Change Directorate, which will be the Secretariat to the Council and the lead agency of the government on national climate change plans and actions.

The Council is designed as an overarching national climate change coordination mechanism to approve and oversee implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan, advise the national and county governments on legislative, policy and other measures, and provide policy direction on research and training. Its other functions are “to ensure the mainstreaming of the climate change function by governments”, approve a national gender and intergenerational responsive public education awareness strategy and implementation programme and to provide guidance on review, amendment and harmonization of sectoral laws and policies in order to achieve the objectives of the Climate Ac. It also administers the Climate Change Fund and sets the targets for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Its functions include advising the national and county governments on legislation and other measures necessary for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

The measures include regional and international conventions, treaties and agreements on climate change to which Kenya is or should be a party. It also follows up the implementation of the conventions, treaties and agreements.

Structure

The Council has a maximum of nine members, of which five positions are ex officio:

- the Cabinet Secretary responsible for environment and climate change affairs;
- the Cabinet Secretary responsible for the National Treasury;
- the Cabinet Secretary responsible for economic planning;
- the Cabinet Secretary responsible for energy;
- the chairperson of the Council of Governors;

Other members are:

- a representative of the private sector nominated by the body representing the largest number of institutions in the private sector
- a representative of the Civil Society nominated by the most representative registered national umbrella association of civil societies working on climate change;
- a representative of the marginalised community who has knowledge and experience in matters relating to indigenous knowledge
- a representative of the academia nominated by the Commission for University Education.

Requirements for non-governmental members are at least ten years’ experience in relevant matters and knowledge of climate change, economy, finance, law, environment and public administration. Some of these non-governmental members will serve a two-year term “to ensure pro rata succession of membership”. Otherwise the membership of the Council shall be for a term of three years and renewable once. A two thirds gender principle is applied in the composition of the Council. The members of the Council are compensated in such a way as determined by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

The Council meets at least four times in a year. They may co-opt members with relevant expertise when needed to advise on specific matters and from time to time establish committees to better carry out of its functions. The Directorate established under the Climate Act serves as the Secretariat of the Council.

National System of Climate Change (SINACC) in Mexico

The National System of Climate Change in Mexico brings together relevant knowledge and to establish the priority actions of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. A SINACC gathering is held two to four times a year to discuss current topics in climate policy.

The National System of Climate Change is composed of:

- The Inter-Secretarial Commission on Climate Change (CICC)

The CICC is the permanent mechanism for coordination of action under the Federal Public Administration in matters of climate change. It is composed of 14 Secretaries of State from various ministries. Among its functions are to promote the coordination of actions of agencies and entities of the federal public administration on climate change, and to formulate and implement national policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change

The CICCs work is organised into seven working groups: the Special Climate Change Program, Adaptation Policies, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, International Negotiations on Climate Change, Projects to Reduce Emissions and Capture Greenhouse Gases, Liaison with Civil Society and Financing.

- The Climate Change Council (C3)

The Climate Change Council is the permanent consulting body of the CICC and is composed of members from the social, private and academic sectors, with recognized merits and experience in climate change. Among its functions are to advise the CICC and recommend policies and action in addition to bring to light issues requiring more research. Setting goals for adaptation and promoting responsible social participation, through public consultations. The Council's first term was 2013-2016, and the second one is 2017-2020. The C3 is also tasked to promote social participation through public consultations. The C3 does not consist of purely academics, instead it provides a broad perspective from society on climate change matters.



The C3 consists of a minimum of 15 council members, who serve a three-year term on the Council and are re-electable for another term. They do not receive compensation for their work on the council, and all nominations are honorary and personal. The current council consists of 18 members, of whom five are academics, five from non-profit organisations, one from international finance and seven private individuals.

The C3 reviews the National Strategy on Climate Change (ENACC) and along with the Advisory Councils for Sustainable Development coordinated a public consultation for the Special Programme on Climate Change (PECC).

- National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)

The INECC is the research institute of the Mexican State oriented to coordinate and carry out scientific studies and technological research with public and private research institutions, both national and foreign, in the matter of climate change.

- Coordination of Evaluation (CE)

Assessment of national climate change policy is conducted by the CE, which is composed of the head of INECC and six climate or environmental experts from the technical, industry or academic

sectors entitled to evaluate implementation of national climate change policy. Members of the CE are known as social advisors. They are elected and are independent from the government. The INECC publishes a call for nomination of potential councillors, with specific knowledge on climate change and policy evaluation. The current advisors were appointed by the CICC in 2015. Their tenure is for four years and they head the evaluation of climate policy. The Technical Secretariat (comprising of nine people, general staff included) supports them in facilitating meetings, administrative procedures and in preparing all technical and subject matter information and documents to support the CE decision making processes. The secretariat of the CE are INEC staff.

The CE meet quarterly on a regular basis with the possibility of additional meetings if required. In 2017, CE met five times to review and deliver evaluation reports. The Technical Secretariat facilitates and prepares all documents and reports on all progress. To date they have implemented two evaluations: federal budget on climate change and the special program on climate change, which are available online.

International cooperation and funding was available to implement all procedural and methodological documentation geared towards supporting CE operations. INECC´s public funding is also part of the CE´s funding. In the initial evaluation reports, consultants gathered and provided information for the CE´s assessment. All major advances, or decisions are available to public as news releases and web pages are issued regularly. The CE also works with C3 in the evaluation process seeking to obtain information, and expertise to develop the evaluation´s findings and evidence. The CE does not interact with policymakers, as it is an evaluation committee.

Other entities of the SINACC are the Congress of the Union, the Federal Governments and Municipalities.

Puerto Rico Climate Change Council - Consejo de Cambios Climáticos

Background

In 2010, over 50 researchers, planners, economists, architects, sociologists, health professionals, and hydrologists, as well as several other professionals and experts of other fields relevant to the study of climate variability and change met and agreed to contribute to assess potential effects and impacts associated to climate variability and change in Puerto Rico. The main objective of the initial group was to assess the vulnerability of coastal communities, critical infrastructure, and biodiversity and to initiate the development of adaptation strategies. However, it was necessary to broaden the scope of work as new members from other sectors and disciplines joined the group. This group of volunteers adopted the name Puerto Rico Climate Change Council. The current council consists of 157 members

The Council's work is conducted under four sub-groups: (1) Geophysical and Chemical Scientific Knowledge; (2) Ecology and Biodiversity; (3) Economy and Society; and (4) Communicating Climate Change and Coastal Hazards. The Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program coordinates and serves as Executive Secretariat of the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council. At the time of publishing the report the Council has 157 members and collaborating partners. Other partner organizations, as well as researchers from Federal and Commonwealth agencies, universities, non-governmental and community-based organizations represented in the PRCCC also continue investigating, evaluating, assessing, and contributing to develop and catalogue the best scientific, technical, and communities' knowledge to support decision making at the public and private sectors and each individual. The Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program coordinates and serves as Executive Secretariat of the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council.

Their Publications include Puerto Rico's State of the Climate; Assessing Puerto Rico's Social-Ecological Vulnerabilities in a Changing Climate; working group reports, studies and risk assessments.

National Council on Sustainable Development and Environment of Portugal

www.cnads.pt/en/

Background
The National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development CNADS was founded in 1997, when legislation containing its mandate and functions was passed. The Council is an independent national advisory body, which facilitates the participation of various social, cultural and economic perspectives in the search for broad consensus on environmental and sustainable development policies. CNADS brings together both institutional and civil society interests and has the responsibility on its own initiative or at the request of Government, public entities or environmental organisations, to issue opinions and recommendations on issues relating to the environment and sustainable development, including:

- Basis for environmental policy
- Strategic plans and programs
- International conventions and other legal instruments concerning the Government
- Monitoring of national and international policy, in particular cooperation policy within the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.

The Council is also responsible for monitoring the Environmental Law, issuing opinion on the National Environmental Policy Plan and the National Strategy for Nature Conservation, to publish reports, opinions or any other work issued or carried out within the scope of its mandate.

Structure
The President of the council is appointed by the Council of Ministers, and other members are appointed by the Governments of the Republic and the Autonomous Regions (28%), and by different sectors of civil society (72%). The goal is to bring together a versatile set of skills and interests from institutions, civil society, academia, local authorities and private sector. According to the law, the Council consists of

- Between five and eight members appointed by the Council of Ministers, one being appointed by the Minister of Cities, Spatial Planning and Environment
- One appointed by the government of the Azores and one by the regional government of Madeira
- Three appointed by environmental associations
- Two appointed by the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities
- Two by industrial associations
- Two by trade and tourism associations
- Two by associations of farmers
- Two by associations socio-professionals in the area of the environment
- Two by the trade union organisation
- Two by entities representative of the scientific community
- Two by non-governmental governmental organisations of regional cooperation
- One by consumer associations
- Four of recognized merit in the fields of environment and sustainable development co-opted by the Council

The members of the Council are appointed for a term of three years, which can be renewed. Membership can be lost if a member repeatedly abstains from meetings, as defined in the internal regulations. The Council ordinarily meets six times per year, but can also gather on the initiative of the president, at the request of the Minister or at the request of at least one-third of the members of the Council.

The government is obliged to request advice from the council on the following matters: Framework Environmental Law; National Strategy on Nature Conservation and Biological Diversity; National Plan on Environment Policy; and National Strategy on Sustainable Development. Environmental organisations are also free to ask the council for advice. The council also has the possibility to take on an advisory topic itself.

Secretariat
The Council has an executive secretary, appointed by the relevant Minister. The executive secretary is named for three years at a time and can be reappointed. The executive secretary coordinates technical advisory services and administrative tasks. The secretariat, formed from the staff of the Ministry, provide the technical and administrative support services for the Council. They also prepare and participate in the meetings of the Council, but without the right to vote.

Funding

The costs of running the Council are covered by budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Cities, Planning and the Environment. Funds are used for compensating the president and executive secretary, acquisition of services, consultancies and technological advice, the running of the council and other necessary costs.

Environment Advisory Council of Spain CAMA

The CAMA was established in 1994 by Royal Decree, with various reforms since then. The Council has its own secretariat hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Environment. The council was set up to advise the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Environment and the rest of the national government in the preparation of environmental and sustainable development policies. The council has the freedom to place advisory topics itself on the agenda or the minister provides requests. The Council receives both specific policy issues with a short to medium-term focus and requests to reflect on proposed laws. However, the government has no obligation to consult the Council.

The Council consists of 15 members from civil society, employers, trade unions, associations of farmers, environmental NGOs and other representatives. In addition, members from the local and regional authorities also work with the Council, but they do not have the right to vote. The Council is chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Environment. Appointment takes place on the basis of a cabinet decision. Council members are appointed for a period of two years and are eligible for reappointment. The government appoints candidates nominated from organisations to sit on the Council. The Council members' independent position in their represented organisations and foundation in a royal decree, give the Council a level of credible independence despite being headed by the Minister.

The Council focuses on environmental issues and sustainable development with special attention to sustainable land use, nature conservation and biodiversity. Their mission is to protect the environment and nature as well as biodiversity and to serve as a platform for public participation and dialogue on sustainable land use, nature conservation and biodiversity.

The Council advises the government on all measures concerning national sustainable development and environment policy. They are a forum to promote the transfer of knowledge and dialogue between the government, the academic world and civil society in the field of sustainable development and the involvement of the economic and social sectors in the process of sustainable development. The degree of actual activity and impact by the CAMA on the current Spanish environmental and sustainability policy is not easy to estimate. However, it seems that the statutory safeguarding has made the council more resistant to political and economic shocks than other government advisory bodies in Spain.

Norwegian committee on Climate Change

To be established?

In June 2017, Norway adopted a new climate law, according to which Norway will implement a transition to a low-emission country. The law states that Norway's emissions in 2050 should be at least 80% lower than in 1990 with the intermediary target of 40% reduction by 2030. The Climate department of the Norwegian Environment Agency will lead the secretariat of a Norwegian committee on Climate Change. The committee is to be established to improve climate reporting under the new Climate Law of Norway. The Environment Agency also has a long-term responsibility of making assessments and analysis of climate mitigation options and policies. The committee will have a secretariat at the climate unit at the Norwegian Environment Directorate.

The United States Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment

The Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment (Committee) charter expired on August 20, 2017 without renewal

Background

U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) implements sustained National Climate Assessments to help the U.S. prepare for the effects of climate and global environmental change. The sustained process facilitates ongoing and transparent interactions among scientists and stakeholders across regions and sectors. This process enables information and insights to be shared as they emerge and supports the quadrennial National Climate Assessment required by the Global Change Research Act of 1990.

In 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established the Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The committee advised NOAA on sustained climate assessment activities and products, including engagement of stakeholders. The NOAA ensured the committee's advice is provided to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for use by the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), a confederation of the research arms of 13 federal departments and agencies, which carry out research and develop and maintain capabilities to support the Nation's understanding and response to global change. OSTP requested NOAA lead the federal advisory committee.

The tasks of the Committee were to discuss the scientific uncertainties in the findings of the USGCRP; to analyse the effects of climate change and global change trends in the next 25 to 100 years; act as a hub for knowledge on climate change's effect to social, economic and ecological features of the U.S.; to address risks and vulnerabilities for business and industry; and to support decision making by providing information in suitable format.

Structure
The Committee consisted of 15 members, with diverse backgrounds in science and technology, from academia, industry, society and government. Each member could serve a term of either one, two or three years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further two-year term. Members included experts in physical and social sciences, communication, education, and other topics reflecting the full scope of issues relevant to the sustained National Climate Assessment process. Members are appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator, in consultation with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director.

Funding
The Committee was supported by the NOAA with an estimated $300,000 and 0.5 person years in administrative staff support. The Committee members did not receive any compensation, except for Committee related travel expenses.

Publication
The Committee completed its final report with recommendations for improving the sustained assessment process for NCA4 and beyond including identification of core activities and derivative products, expanded engagement, and evaluation of the process.